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New Orleans, La. Feb 8, 1879.

William Lloyd Garrison,

Boston Heights; Dear Friend, -

After so many years of silence I have thought you at least, would not be displeased to hear from your old and much indebted friend & fellow writer from this perturbed and unhappy section of the Country. I came down here about a Month ago, with my son Elias Charles, who had obtained the agency for the Sale of Herring & Co's. Safes, with the intention - 5th. the business prove good, to make a permanent stand. We have secured a very Central location, - No. 61 St. Charles St. - And, thus far have no Complaint to make, although, as we might have anticipated from the long and terrible epidemic which has afflicted the City & Country, business is greatly paralyzed, - and probably must Continue so for Months to Come. I left my excellent wife in Brooklyn, with our oldest son F. L. Smith, with whom we have made our home for some two years, and where I have endeavored to make myself useful by assisting him in his Mission work among the poor &

deserving of Brooklyn,-and, particularly, of Mr. Beecher's people, who are gathered about Plymouth Bethel. My church relation has for many years been among the Methodists, but I have long since outgrown all Sectarian preferences, and can sympathise and work with all who love the Master, no matter what may be the name - or if they have no name. For much of this I am indebted to you in lessons received forty years ago. My Methodist family here are in contempt, as you know full well, being largely made up of the despised race, but, though I have been invited to unite with the "respectable" and "popular" side of the Church, I shall stand by my colors, (and there's a good many of 'em here) as I have always done, - and take my lot with the old church, though it were a thousand times blacker than it is in complexion, for the Lord is on their side, I verily believe.

I have not overlooked your many letters during the two years, last touching Southern affairs, and Coming South, & am more than ever satisfied of the soundness of your expressed opinions. I would be glad to arrange with some good Boston paper to correspond from this point, when matters of vital public interest occur, and are worth attention of the papers. Perhaps you could assist

Me to secure some paper which would pay a moderate stipend for such letters — if it would not be too much trouble for you (?)

You must know quite well, at least by reputation, General A.S. Badger, Post Master of N. Orleans, who has just been nominated for Collector of Customs of this port. I was introduced to him today by Mr. Ruby, the editor of the N.O. Observer, a talented Colored man, whom I know intimately as a Senator in the Texas legislature. I was received very courteously, and it has occured to me that on his accession to his new and important post, he might give me a place as a clerk or inspector. I may need such employment, and should you be kind enough to reply to this letter, and say anything in my favor as to my past record, I would, with your leave, show it to Genl. Badger — if necessary. He is sound to the core.

My health is very good, though I am past sixty, I feel none (or little) of the infirmities of age.

May you be preserved many years, and yet see much good, is the prayer of —

Most truly & fraternally yours,

Elias Smith.

My wife's address is 1082 Henry St. Brooklyn, N.Y.

Ms. A. 1.2 v.40 p. 77(a)